CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- A method of billing usage over a network, said method comprising:
 determining when a network interface is turned on;
 determining when said network interface is turned off; and
 storing information relating to a time-based bill based on when the network
 interface is turned on and when the network interface is turned off.
- 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising obtaining desired information across said network while said network interface is on.
- 3. The method of claim 2, wherein obtaining said information comprises encrypting said information, transmitting said encrypted information across said network, and decrypting said encrypted information.
 - 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said information relates to a video file.
- 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising launching an application based on a menu selection.

- 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising transmitting a connect packet from a client to a router device, said connect packet being based on said selected application.
- 7. The method of claim 6, wherein when said network interface is on, said method further comprises allowing access to a desired content.
- 8. The method of claim 6, further comprising transmitting a status packet from said router device to said client.
- 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising updating a status of said router device in a state table.
- 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting a call detail record from a client to a billing module based on said information relating to said time-based bill.
- 11. The method of claim 10, wherein said call detail record comprising information relating to at least one of a time, an Internet protocol address and a status.
- 12. The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting a disconnect packet from a client to a router device.

- 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising transmitting a status packet from said router device to said client.
- 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising updating a status of said router device in a state table.
- 15. The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying call detail record information based on information relating to said time-based bill.

16. A method comprising:

- connecting a client with a content provider of a desired content;
 obtaining said desired content from said content provider;
 disconnecting said client from said content provider; and
- determining an amount of time said client is connected to said content provider.
- 17. The method of claim 16, wherein determining said amount of time comprises:

determining when a network interface to said content provider is turned on;

determining when said network interface to said content provider is turned off;

and

storing information relating to a time-based bill based on when the network interface is turned on and when the network interface is turned off.

- 18. The method of claim 16, wherein obtaining said desired content comprises encrypting said desired content, transmitting said encrypted desired content from said content provider across a network and decrypting said encrypted desired content.
- 19. The method of claim 16, wherein connecting said client with said content provider comprises transmitting a connect packet from said client to a router device.
- 20. The method of claim 19, further comprising transmitting a status packet from said router device to said client.
- 21. The method of claim 20, further comprising updating a status of said router device in a state table.
- 22. The method of claim 16, further comprising transmitting a call detail record from said client to a billing module.

- 23. The method of claim 22, wherein said call detail record comprising information relating to at least one of a time, an Internet protocol address and a status.
- 24. The method of claim 16, wherein disconnecting said client from said content provider comprises transmitting a disconnect packet from said client to a router device.
- 25. The method of claim 24, wherein disconnecting said client further comprises transmitting a status packet from said router device to said client.
- 26. The method of claim 25, further comprising updating a status of said router device in a state table.
- 27. The method of claim 16, further comprising displaying call detail record information.
 - 28. The method of claim 16, wherein said desired content relates to a video file.
- 29. A method of billing for access to a desired content across a network, said method comprising:

communicating with a network device to obtain access to said desired content; obtaining said desired content across said network device;

communicating with said network device to terminate access to said desired content; and

storing information relating to said communicating with said network device.

- 30. The method of claim 29, wherein said stored information relates to when a network interface associated with said network device is turned on and when said network interface is turn off.
- 31. The method of claim 29, wherein obtaining said desired content comprises encrypting said desired content, transmitting said encrypted desired content across said network, and decrypting said encrypted desired content.
 - 32. The method of claim 29, wherein said desired content relates to a video file.
- 33. The method of claim 29, wherein communicating with said network device to obtain access comprises transmitting a connect packet from a client to a router device.
- 34. The method of claim 29, further comprising transmitting a call detail record from a client to a billing module based on said stored information.
- 35. The method of claim 29, wherein communication with said network device to terminate access comprises transmitting a disconnect packet from a client to a router device.

36. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of billing usage over a network, said method comprising:

determining when a network interface is turned on;

determining when said network interface is turned off; and

storing information relating to a time-based bill based on when the network interface is turned on and when the network interface is turned off.

37. A computer system comprising at least one processing unit, at least one input device, at least one output device and at least one storage device, said storage device tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the processing unit to perform a method of billing usage over a network, said method comprising:

determining when a network interface is turned on;

determining when said network interface is turned off; and

storing information relating to a time-based bill based on when the network interface is turned on and when the network interface is turned off.